

# Official Scoring Guide: Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards

## SENTENCE FLUENCY

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing effortlessly into the next.</li> <li>• extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text.</li> <li>• sentence structure that enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas or reinforcing relationships among ideas.</li> <li>• varied sentence patterns that create an effective combination of power and grace.</li> <li>• strong control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well.</li> <li>• stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing into the next.</li> <li>• variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text.</li> <li>• sentence structure that enhances meaning.</li> <li>• control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well.</li> <li>• stylistic control; dialogue, if used sounds natural.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the piece, although it may lack a certain rhythm and grace.</li> <li>• some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that may detract somewhat from overall impact.</li> <li>• strong control over simple sentence structures, but variable control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, are usually effective.</li> <li>• occasional lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part, but may at times sound stilted or unnatural.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some passages that invite fluid oral reading; however, others do not.</li> <li>• some variety in sentences structure, length, and beginnings, although the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns.</li> <li>• good control over simple sentence structures, but little control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, may not be effective.</li> <li>• sentences which, although functional, lack energy.</li> <li>• lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, may sound stilted or unnatural.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significant portions of the text that are difficult to follow or read aloud.</li> <li>• sentence patterns that are monotonous (e.g., subject-verb or subject-verb-object).</li> <li>• a significant number of awkward, choppy, or rambling constructions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• text that does not invite—and may not even permit—smooth oral reading.</li> <li>• confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular.</li> <li>• sentence structure that frequently obscures meaning.</li> <li>• sentences that are disjointed, confusing, or rambling.</li> </ul>